

June 20, 2002

UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH INFORMATION LETTER

REORGANIZATION OF NURSING SERVICE

1. Section 131 of the "Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001," changed Title 38, United States Code, to provide that the Director of Nursing Service reports directly to the Under Secretary for Health. Previously, the Nursing Strategic Healthcare Group (118) was responsible to the Under Secretary for Health, but reported directly to the Chief Patient Care Services Officer (11).
2. The reorganization approved on May 13, 2002, moves a newly created Office of Nursing Services (108) under the Office of the Under Secretary for Health. Cathy Rick, RN, MSN, is to serve as the Chief Nursing Officer. This position is within the Chief Officer structure and provides a clearly recognized source of information on the roles and needs of nurses, and demonstrates VHA commitment to include nurses in the health care decision-making process.

Robert H. Roswell, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health

DISTRIBUTION: CO: E-mailed 6/25/2002
FLD: VISN, MA, DO, OC, OCRO, and 200 – E-mailed 6/25/2002